



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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To enrich lives through effective and caring service.

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February 23, 2010

To: Each Supervisor

From: Tom Tindall
Director

Tom Tindall

Subject: **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY TEAM REPORT #7**

This memo provides an update on the accomplishments and activities of the Energy and Environmental Policy Team (Team) created through your Board's approval of the County-wide Energy and Environmental Policy (Policy) on January 16, 2007.

This document also discusses the role of the Team now that a County Office of Sustainability has been established within the Internal Services Department (ISD).

TEAM ORGANIZATION

Under the Policy, the Team was created to investigate and develop energy and environmental programs for implementation in County facilities and operations. The Team also provides support to County departments for programs initiated by the Board, including those that impact constituents County-wide or in County unincorporated areas. It is led by ISD and includes representatives from County Counsel, Chief Executive Office, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Sheriff's Department, Public Library, Health Services, Public Health, Community and Senior Services, Community Development Commission, Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power.

The Team meets regularly, most recently on January 27, 2010. Working committees have been established within each program area listed below and meet as necessary to accomplish the goals of the Policy.

- Energy and Water Efficiency
- Green Building Operations
- Environmental Stewardship
- Public Education & Outreach

In September 2009, your Board approved the creation of a County Office of Sustainability (COS) within ISD to respond to legislation, regulation, and policy related to climate change, and to coordinate energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainability programs within the County and the region.

ISD is also administering American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants related to County-wide energy efficiency programs, including \$15.4 million from the formula-allocated Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). Under the EECBG award, ISD is responsible for:

- Establishing Environmental Service Centers in County unincorporated areas
- Implementing a Property-Assessed Clean Energy financing program (under AB 811)
- Continuing the Energy Efficiency Retrofit and Building Retro-commissioning Program for County buildings
- Providing outreach and education for the County's Green Building Program
- Assisting with the development of a Regional Climate Action Plan

As noted by both Team members and Board staff, there is a large degree of overlap between the responsibilities of the ISD's COS and the Team. Thus, ISD will recommend that we assume all of the functions previously assigned to the Team. That is, ISD will inform departments, the CEO and the Board of the status of environmental and energy efficiency initiatives through regular meetings, semi-annual reports, and updates to an improved <http://green.lacounty.gov> website.

ISD is preparing a draft revised County Energy and Environmental Policy (Policy) to eliminate the Team and assume its functions. Unless your Board provides an alternative direction, ISD plans to submit the revised Policy for your Board's consideration in April 2010.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The most recent Energy and Environmental Policy Team report was issued on August 27, 2009. Since that report, we have accomplished the following significant activities:

- Public Works and ISD received a Quality and Productivity Commission Productivity Investment Fund grant and loan to certify their respective headquarters buildings under LEED EBOM (Existing Building - Operations and Maintenance) guidelines. Efforts are underway to achieve LEED EBOM certification by March 2011. A planned outcome of this effort is that ISD will develop certain County green building policy standards that meet LEED EBOM requirements for use in all County buildings. The certification of ISD's headquarters building is on track for meeting the original objective of certification

at the silver level. Public Works is pursuing more green building points than initially planned, and will also likely achieve LEED certification at the silver level.

- As part of the LEED EBOM certification process for both buildings, training will be held to promote sustainable construction and building operations for building management staff from other County departments. More than 75 staff persons will learn about these green building standards. An educational provider will be contracted in March 2010, with training sessions to start in April 2010.
- A portion of the EECBG funds (approximately \$1 million) has been allocated for providing public education and outreach about the County's Green Building Program, which includes new adoption of new building ordinances for new residential and commercial buildings. These funds will be used to provide industry stakeholder and constituent outreach, and to offer training for County staff on Program requirements and implementation. On December 14, 2009, approximately 160 staff persons from Regional Planning and Public Works attended a training session. This first training session provided an overview of green building and sustainable development fundamentals.
- The Los Angeles Regional Collaborative (LARC) for Climate Action and Sustainability will oversee the creation of a County-wide Climate Action Plan. The LARC, which includes members from local jurisdictions, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and universities, has formed a Regional Climate Action Planning Committee to guide the drafting of a scope of work for the Climate Action Plan and regional adaptation model. The Committee has begun to evaluate various emissions inventory and projection protocols, and will soon create a solicitation document to contract for this work. ISD represents the County on the LARC and on the Committee.
- ISD is managing AB 811 Program development. Under AB 811, counties and cities can provide municipal financing for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on private property. The financing remains with the property if it is sold and is repaid through a line-item assessment on the property tax bills. In November 2009, the County hired a consultant team to design, implement, and administer the AB 811 Program. ISD, the Treasurer and Tax Collector, and the CEO have been providing monthly updates to your Board on this very important program. The latest update is attached.
- The formula-allocated EECBG includes the establishment of Environmental Service Centers across the County to provide information, materials, and resources to constituents on a variety of energy and environmental programs. ISD is now working with the consultant team hired to implement EECBG programs on the Environmental Service Center program design and implementation plan. In November, 2009, ISD provided the Board with an

update on the Environmental Service Centers proposal and its implementation. On December 16, 2009, ISD met with the deputies from all five supervisorial districts, plus stakeholders from Public Works and Regional Planning, to discuss the program status. On January 27, 2010, ISD met with Public Works' Environmental Programs Division to coordinate their efforts with the Environmental Service Centers.

- ISD will expand and enhance the Energy and Environmental website <http://green.lacounty.gov>. This website will be used as one of the major outreach components for the Environmental Service Centers and the AB 811 Program, as well as an internal resource to access status reports on energy and environmental policy issues.

ISD will continue to support County programs that are led by other organizations. These include:

- Developing programs to limit or ban the use of polystyrene food containers and plastic bags (led by the CEO and Public Works);
- Implementing the Green Building Program for private development in unincorporated County (led by Regional Planning and Public Works);
- Implementing the County Capital Project Program to certify new County buildings (>10,000 square feet) at the United States Green Building Council's LEED silver level.

Further details on all energy and environmental activities described above are included as attachments and may be found at <http://green.lacounty.gov>. If you have any questions, please contact me at (323) 267-2101 or Howard Choy at (323) 881-3939.

TT:HC:MB:LR
Attachment(s)

c: William T Fujioka, CEO
Ellen Sandt, DCEO
Lari Sheehan, DCEO
ISD Board Deputies
Each Department Head